AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Upon entry of this agreement, the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the pending application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 8-9, 16, 23-24 as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for providing a uniform network addressing scheme for a user accessing a computer on a network independent from the computer the user is accessing, the method comprising the steps of:

(a)   obtaining a plurality of virtual host names, each of the plurality of virtual host names comprising a host name uniquely identifying a user from a plurality of users;

(b)   assigning, from the plurality of virtual host names, a first virtual host name to a first user accessing a first computer via the network via a first computer, the first computer having a computer host name and a computer internet protocol address to connect to the network; and obtaining a second virtual host name, different from the first virtual host name, to a second user accessing the first computer via the network; and

(c)   assigning, from the plurality of virtual host names, a second virtual host name, different from the first virtual host name, to a second user accessing the network via the first computer; associating the first virtual host name of the first user with an internet protocol address of the first user associated with first computer and associating the second virtual host name of the second user with an internet protocol address of the second user associated with the first computer.

(d)   using the first virtual host name of the first user with a first internet protocol address assigned to the first user for network communications of the first user communicated via the first computer; and

(e)   using the second virtual host name of the second user with a second internet protocol address assigned to the second user for network communications of the second user communicated via the first computer.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) further comprises obtaining a plurality of internet protocol addresses for assigning unique internet protocol addresses to each of the first user and the second user.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein step (a) further comprises obtaining at least one of the plurality of internet protocol addresses from a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol server.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein step (a) further comprises reserving at least one of the plurality of internet protocol addresses for at least one of the first user and the second user.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein step (c) further comprises associating the least one reserved internet protocol address with at least one of the first virtual host name and the second virtual host name.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises assigning, from the plurality of internet protocol addresses, a first internet protocol address to the first user, and a second internet protocol address, different from the first internet protocol address, to the second user.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) further comprises registering, with a name resolution service, at least one of the plurality of virtual host names to at least one of the first user and the second user.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the name resolution service comprises <u>one of</u> a Domain Name Service <u>or a Windows Internet Naming Service.</u>

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the <u>virtual host name</u> <u>identifies one of a session of the user or a program used by the user.</u> ~~name resolution service comprises a Windows Internet Naming Service~~.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises assigning the first virtual host name to the first user accessing a second computer and associating the first virtual host name with an internet protocol address of the second computer associated with the first user.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises assigning

the second virtual host name to the second user accessing a second computer and associating the second virtual host name with an internet protocol address of the second computer associated with the second user.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises assigning, while the first user accesses the first computer, a third virtual host name to the first user accessing a second computer and associating the third virtual host name with an internet protocol address of the second computer associated with the first user.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (c) further comprises assigning, while the second user accesses the first computer, a fourth virtual host name to the second user accessing a second computer and associating the fourth virtual host name with an internet protocol address of the second computer associated with the second user.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) further comprises naming at least one of the plurality of virtual host names with a portion of the characters representing the user's identity on the network.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (a) further comprises naming at least one of the plurality of virtual host names with a suffix identifying the session of the user when the user is concurrently accessing multiple computers on the network.

16.   (Currently Amended) A system for providing a uniform network addressing scheme for a user accessing a computer on a network independent from the computer the user is accessing, the system comprising:

a server on a network, the server providing a plurality of virtual host names, each of the plurality of virtual host names comprising a host name uniquely identifying a user from a plurality of users;

a first computer on the network obtaining, from the plurality of virtual host names, a first virtual host name for a first user of the first computer and a second virtual host name, different from the first virtual host name, for a second user of the first computer; and

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a first computer having a first user accessing the network via the first computer and having a computer host name and a computer internet protocol address to connect to the network, obtaining a first virtual host name from the plurality of virtual host names;

a first computer having a second user accessing the network via the first computer, obtaining a second virtual host name from the plurality of virtual host names different from the first virtual host name;

a network interface of the first computer ~~associating~~ using the first virtual host name of the first user with a first internet protocol address assigned to ~~of~~ the first user for network communications of the first user communicated via the first computer; and ~~associated with the first computer, and associating the second virtual host name of the second user with an internet protocol address of the second user associated with the first computer.~~

wherein the network interface of the first computer uses the second virtual host name of the second user with a second internet protocol address assigned to the second user to use for network communications of the second user communicated via the first computer.

17.   (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the server obtains a plurality of internet protocol addresses for assigning a unique internet protocol address to each of the first user and the second user.

18.   (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the server assigns, from the plurality of internet protocol addresses, a first internet protocol address for the first user, and a second internet protocol address, different from the first internet protocol address, for the second user.

19.   (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the server obtains at least one of the plurality of internet protocol addresses from a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol server.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the server reserves at least one of the plurality of internet protocol addresses for at least one of the first user and the second user.

21.   (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the network interface associates the least one reserved internet protocol address with at least one of the first virtual host name and the second virtual host name.

22.   (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the system further comprises a name resolution service to register at least one of the plurality of virtual host names to at least one of the first user and the second user.

23.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, wherein the name resolution service comprises <u>one of</u> a Domain Name Service <u>or a Windows Internet Naming Service</u>.

24.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, wherein the <u>virtual host name identifies one of a session of the user or a program used by the user</u> ~~name resolution service comprises a Windows Internet Naming Service~~.

25.   (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the network interface assigns the first virtual host name to the first user accessing a second computer and associates the first virtual host name with an internet protocol address of the second computer associated with the first user.

26.   (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the network interface assigns the second virtual host name to the second user accessing a second computer and associates the second virtual host name with an internet protocol address of the second computer associated with the second user.

27.   (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein a network interface of a second computer assigns, while the first user accesses the first computer, a third virtual host name to the first user accessing the second computer and associates the third virtual host name with an internet protocol address of the second computer associated with the first user.

28.   (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein a network interface of a second computer assigns, while the second user accesses the first computer, a fourth virtual host name to the second user accessing the second computer and associates the fourth virtual host name with an internet protocol address of the second computer associated with the

second user.

29.   (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the name of at least one of the plurality of virtual host names comprises a portion of the characters representing the user's identity on the network.

30.   (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the name of the least one of the plurality of virtual host names comprises a suffix identifying the session of the user when the user is concurrently accessing multiple computers on the network.